

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments are sufficient to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Objections to the Specification and Claims:

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the abstract and claims presented herein are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's objections thereto. (See final Office Action dated September 20, 2002; at paragraphs 1 through 3.)

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of cancelled Claim 3 along with the subject matter of cancelled Claim 4, which is dependent from Claim 3.

In the final Office Action dated September 20, 2002, the Examiner's rejection of Claim 3 under both 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is based upon Perchepied, U.S. Patent No. 5,609,263. (See final Office Action dated September 20, 2002; at paragraphs 6 and 9.) However, in that final Office Action, it is indicated that Claim 4 (and the claims dependent therefrom) are allowable over the prior art of record. (See final Office Action dated September 20, 2002; at paragraph 13.)

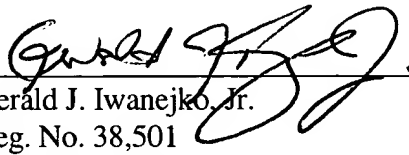
No prior art reference of record teaches the limitation of cancelled Claim 4 (incorporated into Claims 1 and 25) requiring "*at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt **between** two said elevated areas **and** wherein at least one **other** said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt **from** an elevated area.*" (See Applicant's

specification; at Figure 2, at reference numerals **35** and **35a**.) Since the subject matter of Claim 4 (as dependent from Claim 3) has been incorporated into Claims 1 and 25, all pending claims as dependent therefrom are allowable over the prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 1, 5-12, 14, 16-20, 22 and 25 as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX

Sub, E' > 1. A tamper indicating closure configured for snap-on or screw-on application to a container, said closure comprising:

- a. a closure top portion;
- b. an annular depending skirt extending from said top portion, said depending skirt having an internal thread configuration adapted for engaging an external thread configuration on the neck portion of said container by snap-on application during initial installation of said closure to the container neck;
- c. an inner annular sealing flange depending from said closure top portion in spaced relation to said depending skirt; and
- d. a tamper indicating ring connected to said depending skirt by a plurality of frangible elements;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned and said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck; and

wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on the container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said

frangible elements connecting said skirt to said tamper indicating ring and fracture of said weakened area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt and further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas and wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area.

25. A tamper indicating closure configured for snap-on or screw-on application to a container, said closure and container comprising in combination:

- a. a closure top portion;
- b. an annular depending skirt extending from said top portion, said depending skirt having an internal thread configuration adapted for engaging an external thread configuration on the neck portion of said container by snap-on application during initial installation of said closure to said container neck;
- c. an inner annular sealing flange depending from said closure top portion in spaced relation to said depending skirt; and
- d. a tamper indicating ring connected to said depending skirt by a plurality of frangible elements;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes at least one arcuate projection extending

around at least a portion of said tamper indicating ring arranged for registration with a container neck portion on which said closure is positioned and said closure includes at least one nonremovable member breakably attached to said tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with at least one said arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of said closure from said container neck; and

82 wherein at least one said arcuate projection is held in place by an annular locking flange on said container neck as said member is pulled away from said arcuate projection by twist-off removal of said annular depending skirt to cause said tamper indicating ring to break at a weakened area as said member pulls said tamper indicating ring upward to cause breakage of said frangible elements connecting said skirt to said tamper indicating ring and fracture of said weakened area by separation of said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said member from said portion of said tamper indicating ring attached to said arcuate projection;

wherein said tamper indicating ring includes an elevated area extending axially towards said depending skirt, wherein said elevated area defines a region of decreased ring spacing from said depending skirt and further comprising a plurality of said frangible elements and said elevated areas, wherein at least one of said frangible elements is connected to said depending skirt between two said elevated areas and wherein at least one other said frangible element is connected to said depending skirt from an elevated area.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a closure with a thread configuration adapted for snap-on or screw-on application to a container neck finish. Preferably the closure and neck finish contain eight or nine mating continuous or discontinuous threads for this purpose. The present invention preferably provides at least one annular sealing bead depending from the outer surface of the closure valve which are compressed against the inner surface of the container neck to form a seal as the closure is snapped onto the container neck. Optionally, sealing engagement between the closure and the mating portions of the exterior wall of the container neck may be further improved by including one or more annular sealing beads on the interior surface of the closure depending annular skirt. The present invention also preferably provides plurality of elevated areas extend upwardly from the tamper evident band in spaced relation to the bottom edge of the closure body to support the tamper evident band in resisting vertical movement imparted by insertion of the closure on the bottle neck, thereby protecting the frangible elements during assembly. The frangible elements connecting the tamper evident band to the lower edge of the closure body may be configured to extend from these elevated areas as well as the non-elevated areas of the tamper evident band to assist in preventing axial misalignment of the tamper evident band relative to the annular depending skirt portion of the closure upon subjecting the closure to torquing forces during assembly to the container neck. At least one and preferably a plurality of circumferentially spaced lugs optionally extend from the exterior wall of the container neck to facilitate breaking the frangible elements on the tamper evident band of the closure by engaging the frangible elements as the closure is twisted off the container neck following initial snap-on application. The closure is optionally provided with at least one member attached to the tamper-indicating ring which

cooperates with the arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of the closure from the container neck.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

3 The present invention provides a closure with a thread configuration adapted for snap-on or screw-on application to a container neck finish. The closure is optionally provided with at least one member attached to the tamper-indicating ring which cooperates with the arcuate projection to assist in breaking said tamper indicating ring during removal of the closure from the container neck.
